

Response to Comments Regarding the Public Review Version of the Conservancy's Interim Strategic Plan

Commenter	Page/Line	Comment Summary	Staff Recommendation or Resolution	Subcommittee Action
SFCWA	7/5: (throughout text as well)	changing "a" to "the" is inappropriate; stick to the language in legislation	Discussed at board, majority vote to keep "the"	No action.
SFCWA	7/13-16	Confusion regarding if Conservancy is responsible for co-equal goals or assist in achieving them; suggest changing "will accomplish this broad mission" with "will help accomplish this broad mission" or "will contribute to the accomplishment of this broad mission".	Accept suggested edits or rewrite paragraph to avoid confusion.	Accepted suggested edits.
Robert Pyke, Ph.D.	Could fit in on 8/after line 7; 21/after line 15; or 48/after line 18.	Add additional text: In anticipation of being <u>the</u> primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta, the Final Strategic Plan will identify the principles and priorities that will guide the Conservancy's participation in ecosystem restoration activities, whether they are projects sponsored by the Conservancy or sponsored by others. The broad principles will include restoring connectivity, complexity and variability to the Delta ecosystem on a landscape scale, that is, throughout the Delta, rather than on a piece-meal basis. It must also be recognized that the Delta ecosystem is not a closed system and that the ocean-bay-Delta-rivers system must be addressed as a whole.* A more detailed listing of desirable habitat conditions for the Delta component is provided in Appendix B as an example.	Consider adding additional text and additional appendix.	Edited text and added the new text to the Next Steps section.

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SFCWA, Solano County	8/30; also 18/20-23 and 41/9-10	Confusion regarding the timeframe of interim plan; confusion with statutory requirement of strategic plan completion. Inconsistency with other text later in document.	Rewrite these sentences to avoid confusion.	Edited the sentence(s) to avoid the confusion.
SFCWA	13/3	Reinsert "parts of" before Yolo Bypass.	Discussed at board; do not reinsert "parts of"	No action taken.
Solano County	18/30-19/21	Will project evaluations be conducted after distribution of funds to ensure intended use?	Add a key question regarding developing criteria for grants program and monitoring results	Added a new bullet item under the Key Questions section.
Solano County	18/30-19/21	What role does the Conservancy have in developing adaptive management criteria and weighing results of habitat restoration efforts based on that criteria? Suggests a need for a guardian of adaptive management process to protect against ecosystem damage.	Add a key question regarding the Conservancy's role in developing and ensuring adaptive management processes in Delta ecosystem restoration efforts.	Added a new bullet item under the Key Questions section.
Solano County	20/18-21	Document should include guidance on timing and extent of analysis of potential habitat projects and their impacts on other land uses in the vicinity, including floods and levee impacts on non-habitat land. Hydraulic and hydro-dynamic analysis critical to this analysis.	Add a key question regarding how Conservancy will address impact analysis and will explore this topic in depth in the final strategic plan.	Discussed adding a new bullet item, determined it was a NEPA-CEQA issue, and decided on not to include any changes to the interim draft regarding this comment.
Solano County	21/16-24 or 22/5-6	What mechanism will the Conservancy use to categorize, prioritize, and implement projects if bond funds do not materialize? Will it be by regional benefit, efficiency, or based on its value to the Delta?	Discuss whether to wordsmith for the interim, or defer to final strategic plan process.	Discussed comment, determined that the text box "Balanced Program" addressed the issue; no additional action taken.

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SFCWA	23/23-26; also 39/18-22	Delta is not source of water and using “providing some water” is inaccurate; suggest edit “including its central role in the delivery of water supplies to two-thirds of the state.”	Consider accepting suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.
SFCWA	25/18-10	Delta is not a major source of water; delete clause so sentence reads “The Delta-Suisun is an ecological treasure...”	Suggest changing “source” to “thoroughfare.”	Accepted recommended edit.
SFCWA	25/24	Insert “portions of” before 5 counties	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.
SFCWA	25/28	Substitute “contributes to” for “supports”	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.
CDWA	26/3	Change to read “The Delta and Suisun Marsh are key links in the Pacific Flyway.”	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.
SFCWA	26/5	Delete “critical” from “critical habitat” because critical habitat has specific ESA meanings	Noted; consider rewriting sentence to address concern	Rewrote sentence to avoid confusion with ESA meaning of critical habitat.
CDWA	27/7	Incorrect statement; change to read “portions of the Delta lands are below sea level.”	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit with subcommittee change.
CDWA	27/8-9	Change sentence to read “These levees are subject to varying risks of failure.”	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.

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SFCWA	27/17-20	Water delivers are not “from” Delta but are “conveyed through” Delta; no mention of upstream diversions; rewrite into two bullets, suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 2/3 of Californians rely on water transported across the Delta for some portion of their drinking water, including many residents of the East and South Bay Area; and more than 3 million acres of agricultural land outside of the Delta are irrigated with water pumped by SWP and CVP facilities in the southern Delta. • The East Bay Municipal Utility District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission rely on water diverted out of the Delta watershed, upstream of the Delta, to serve their customers. 	Discuss suggested edits	Discussed suggested edits; decided to add footnote citation regarding the publication from which the Delta facts were taken; decided not to rewrite the bullet into two bullets because the intent of the original is to convey information, not assert a particular position about the Delta.
SFCWA	27/21-22	Water quality isn’t affected by “water exported from the Delta”; suggest changing to “water diversions, water project operations.”	Consider accepting suggested edit.	Rewrote sentence.
SFCWA	27/22-23	This sentence is too narrow and should be deleted.	Discuss deleting sentence.	Deleted sentence.
SFCWA	28/6-8	The figures do not match those of the DPC’s draft economic sustainability plan.	Discussed at Board meeting; staff will revise figures and rewrite statement	Directed staff to make the figures consistent with the DPC’s draft economic sustainability plan.
Ken Vogel	29	Should we include inflows and outflows as a resource challenge?	Add bullet point regarding inflows and outflows to table.	Added the bullet point to the table.
CDWA	29/3	Delete word “increased” and replace with “Excessive and increasing demand on existing water supplies.”	Consider accepting suggested edit.	Did not accept suggested edit.

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Ken Vogel	30/2-13	Should we add local habitat management plans as those with which the Conservancy's strategic plan should be consistent.	30/6-7 mentions local general plans and HCPs. Edit for more clarity, if necessary. Consider adding appendix that lists specific local plans?	Discussed; agreed to add a small text box highlighting three local plans
Solano County	30/2-13	BDCP should be noted prominently as another plan that the Conservancy with which the interim plan must be consistent	Add a sentence or two about the BDCP.	Discussed; determined that BDCP is incorporated by reference to the Delta Plan, since the Delta Plan will subsume all or parts of the BDCP. No change.
Leonard Lloyd	30/2-13	Consistency with the 5 plans seems restrictive; a requirement that the other plans be considered explicitly would not only provide the latitude the Delta Conservancy needs, but would also be more informative.	Noted. The consistency requirement to the 5 other plans is in the legislation.	Discussed; adding the text box about local plans will help show the latitude available to the Conservancy.
SFCWA	30/2-4	Asserting that the Conservancy will take a lead role in shaping the ecosystem element of the Delta Plan is inaccurate.	Discussed at Board meeting; voted to keep existing language.	No action taken.
CDWA	31/6	<p>"overwhelming consensus" overstates the situation; suggested change: "...level, and planning should anticipate some future rise in sea level."</p> <p>Perhaps the Conservancy can facilitate a truly independent evaluation and predication [of climate change in the Delta].</p>	<p>Consider accepting suggested edit.</p> <p>Consider leading this kind of evaluation as an action item for the strategic plan.</p>	<p>Deleted the word "overwhelming;" rest of paragraph remained unchanged.</p> <p>Agreed that the Conservancy might want to host a climate change workshop at some point.</p>
SFCWA	31/7-9	Add "more numerous and more intense flood events" to the sentence.	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit, with changing "flood events" to "storms."

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SFCWA	31/10-11	Use of "degree" and "committed" is awkward; suggest changing to "adapting to the consequences of climate change."	Discuss and consider revising sentence.	Discussed; no action taken.
SFCWA	31/19	Change "adaption" to "adaptation."	Accept suggested edit.	Accepted suggested edit.
Solano County	36/21-29; also 43/23-31; 44/1-17	Long-term and near-term strategies for implementing projects should include ongoing funding for project operations and maintenance.	Consider including adding O&M language to third long-term goal and objectives	Accepted suggestion, added O&M funding to goals and objectives.
CCWD	37/13-14	Supports idea that all beneficiaries should pay for benefits received and provided table from CUWA that identifies range of users and benefits.	Consider using the CUWA information in final version of the strategic plan.	Agreed to defer to the final version of the strategic plan.
CCWD	44/25	Supports Conservancy's long term objective regarding water quality; expresses concern that the isolated facility in BDCP would adversely impact Delta water quality.	Noted.	Acknowledged commenter's concern; no action taken.
CDWA	46/8	Adjust the date	Rewrite sentence to eliminate date reference.	Rewrote sentence.
Ken Vogel	General	Should we consider addressing property and water rights more than we do?	Discuss including additional language in this or the final strategic plan.	Agreed to add bullet point to the "How We Operate" section regarding respect for property and water rights.
Robert Pyke, Ph.D.	General	Consider developing another appendix that includes Table 1 from the Sandstrom et al. paper, Figure 8 from the POD report that would list potential projects the Conservancy could consider	Discuss including the additional information in this or the final strategic plan.	Agreed to defer to the final version of the strategic plan.
Joan C. Townsend	General	What about the culture, natural resources, and agricultural values of the Sacramento Valley?	Consider adding as a key question the Conservancy's policy regarding third-party impacts resulting from the Conservancy's efforts.	Acknowledged the commenter's concern regarding potential impacts of the Delta Plan to the greater Central Valley; no action taken.

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CDWA	General	Protection and preservation of Delta agriculture and other uses requires: 1) adequate levees, 2) a robust emergency response mechanism to immediately repair and restore levee and drainage systems in the event of failure, 3) good in-channel water quality, 4) an adequate supply with the recognized rights to divert from the channels for irrigation of crops, wildlife friendly agricultural practices, habitat and recreation, 5) recognized rights to drain the lands and discharge seepage, storm water and irrigation return flows to the channels. The role of the Conservancy should be to facilitate the above by funding and supporting needed studies, improvements and adjusted regulatory programs.	Consider the suggestion regarding the Conservancy's role regarding protection and preservation of Delta agriculture.	Acknowledged the commenter's concern regarding protection and preservation of Delta agriculture; the final version of the strategic plan will discuss potential opportunities for the Conservancy to participate in Delta agriculture preservation and protection.